

Message Text

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ORIGIN CG-00

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TO AMEMBASSY LAGOS
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

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E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS:AORG, EWWT, NI

SUBJECT:AMENDMENTS TO IMCO CONVENTION

1. IN A LETTER DATED 16 MAY 1977, MR. O.A. SOETAN OF FMG
MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT SENT A LETTER TO THE SECRETARY GENERAL
OF IMCO FORWARDING PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE IMCO CONVEN-
TION AND ASKED THAT THESE AMENDMENTS BE CONSIDERED DURING
THE TENTH REGULAR SESSION OF THE IMCO ASSEMBLY FROM 7 - 18
NOVEMBER 1977. THESE PROPOSED AMENDMENTS ALONG WITH
NIGERIA'S COMMENTS ON OTHER MATTERS ARE CONTAINED IN IMCO'S
NOTE VERBAL A1/E/1.08 (NV.7) DATED 18 MAY 1977. IN THE GON
PROPOSALS AT PARAGRAPH 5(C), IT STATES: "THIRDLY, THAT ALL
CONSEQUENTIAL AMENDMENT AFFECTING THE NEW ARTICLES 3, 23,
25, 30(C), 31, 33, 35, 36, 41 AND 43 SHOULD INCLUDE THE
ASSEMBLY OF THE ORGANIZATION, TO INSURE SUCH MATTERS VITAL
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TO THE INTERESTS OF THE DEVELOPING NATIONS ARE ALWAYS
BROUGHT TO THE FULL ATTENTION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,"
UNFORTUNATELY, WE DO NOT UNDERSTAND WHAT CHANGES NIGERIAN
PROPOSAL CALLS FOR IN WHAT ARTICLES OF THE CONVENTION.

2. FYI. THE IMCO CONVENTION HAS BEEN FORMALLY AMENDED
TWICE WITHIN THIS DECADE WITH THE FIRST SET OF AMENDMENTS

(1974) TO COME IN FORCE ON THE 1ST OF APRIL 1978. THERE IS

ALSO IN EXISTENCE A REPORT OF AN AD HOC WORKING GROUP WHICH PROPOSES A THIRD SET OF AMENDMENTS AND IT IS IN THIS CONTEXT THAT THE NIGERIANS ARE PROPOSING FURTHER AMENDMENTS. THE ONLY PUBLISHED COMPLETE TEXT OF THE IMCO CONVENTION IS A PRE 1974 EDITION. THERE IS NO SINGLE PUBLISHED TEXT OF THE CONVENTION AS IT WOULD EXIST WITH ANY OF THESE SETS OF AMENDMENTS IN EFFECT. THEREFORE, IT COULD BE THAT THE NIGERIANS HAVE CONFUSED THE NUMERICAL ORDER OF THE ARTICLES. END FYI.

3. NEWLY NUMBERED ARTICLE 23, "THE COUNCIL SHALL MAKE A REPORT TO THE ASSEMBLY AT EACH REGULAR SESSION ON THE WORK PERFORMED BY THE ORGANIZATION SINCE THE PREVIOUS REGULAR SESSION OF THE ASSEMBLY," DOES NOT IN ITSELF APPEAR TO BE AMENDABLE IN LINE WITH THE COMMENTS IN PARA 5(C) OF THE NIGERIAN PROPOSAL. THE ORIGINAL ARTICLE 23 (NOW ARTICLE 22) ON THE OTHER HAND, MIGHT BE SUSCEPTIBLE TO AMENDMENT ALONG THE LINES THE NIGERIANS HAVE PROPOSED. NEW ARTICLE 25 ALSO DOES NOT APPEAR TO LEND ITSELF TO THIS TYPE OF AMENDMENT. THE ORIGINAL ARTICLE 25 (NOW ARTICLE 24) APPEARS TO BE EVEN LESS SUSCEPTIBLE TO THIS TYPE OF AMENDMENT. WE WONDER IF THE NIGERIAN PROPOSAL HAS A MIXTURE OF OLD AND NEW ARTICLE NUMBERS.

4. POST IS REQUESTED TO CONTACT APPROPRIATE OFFICIALS OF FMG AND ASK IF POSSIBLE FOR QUOTES OF THE TEXT WHICH THE NIGERIANS BELIEVE SHOULD BE AMENDED ALONG WITH AN UNCLASSIFIED

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INDICATION OF THE LANGUAGE PROPOSED BY FMG FOR AMENDING THEM TO ACCOMPLISH THE NIGERIAN AIM. POST SHOULD NOT CONVEY THE IDEA THAT THE U.S. IS NECESSARILY RECEPTIVE OR OPPOSED TO THESE AMENDMENTS, BUT SHOULD EMPHASIZE THAT WE ONLY WISH TO FULLY UNDERSTAND THE NIGERIAN PROPOSAL BEFORE TAKING A POSITION ON IT. CHRISTOPHER

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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
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Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
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